I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents. P. O. Box 1450. Alexandria. VA 22313-1450 on May 27, 2004

Joyce Moore

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JUN 0 1 2004 &

Case 8412

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

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Paul Stiros, et al.

Serial No. 09/775,999

Group Art Unit 1744

Filed February 2, 2001

Examiner M. Chorbaji

Confirmation No. 7441

For APPARATUS AND METHOD

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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 2, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.